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Serial No. 10/031,091

Attorney Docket No. 89650

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application with claims 1, 5 and 9 being amended. Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to clarify that each video input is able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a user selects a video input from two or more possible video inputs, the video inputs being able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices. Claim 5 has been amended to state that each RF video input is coupleable to a respective source. Claims 5 and 9 have been amended to clarify that the channel list of all channels available for the selected RF video input is updated. Support for these amendments is provided throughout the specification and specifically on page 2, lines 25-26, page 4, lines 20-24, page 6, lines 9-11 and page 6, lines 19-20. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 9-10 under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reitmeier (International Patent Application No. WO 99/16247). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present claimed invention provides a method and apparatus of performing a channel search in a video processing apparatus having at least two video inputs, each video input able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices and coupled to a display device. The present claimed invention determines the currently selected video input of at least two video inputs and detects and updates a channel list of available channels on that video input. Independent claims 1, 5 and 9 each include similar features and thus all arguments presented herein apply to each claim.

Reitmeier describes a method and apparatus for masking program selection latency in an MPEG-like information stream receiver. In a channel scanning mode of operation, a plurality of channels are retrieved from one or more system streams. The

Serial No. 10/031,091

Attorney Docket No. 89650

apparatus stores intra-frame (I-frame) data for adjacent channels received from a single RF source feed coupled to two different tuners. In order to accomplish this, Reitmeier's apparatus determines the channels which a user will most likely select when changing channels based upon user habits and channels surrounding the currently selected channel. Then, the apparatus stores I-frame data from the channels determined most likely to be selected for a channel change.

The present claimed invention includes "at least two video inputs, each video input able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices and coupled to a display device." However, Reitmeier's apparatus has only one input source tuning RF television signals received from that input source (page 5, lines 4-9) coupled to two tuners, 10A and 10B in Fig. 1. Tuners 10A and 10B are connected to a single input device, not multiple input devices (two or more) as in the present claimed invention. The present claimed invention recites in claim 1 "a method of performing a channel search ... determining by a user a currently selected video input of at least two video inputs." Reitmeier's apparatus is connected to a single input source; hence, the video input will always originate from one source, not two or more as in the present claimed invention. Furthermore, as Reitmeier has only one RF source and does not offer a choice for selecting another source input, there is no motivation to detect channels available only for the selected source. Therefore, Reitmeier neither discloses nor suggests "means for selecting one of the RF video inputs as a television signal source for processing." Additionally, Reitmeier having only one RF input source neither discloses nor suggests "means for detecting available channels from only the RF video input selected" and "means for updating a channel list of all channels available for the selected RF video input" as recited in the present claimed invention. If Reitmeier detected available channels, as there is only one source, the channel list would not update as the channels detected by tuner 10A and 10B would be identical. Therefore, Reitmeier neither discloses nor suggests determining "a currently selected video input" for "detecting available channels ... on only the selected video input" as recited in the present invention.

Serial No. 10/031,091

Attorney Docket No. 89650

The Office Action asserts that Reitmeier describes a scan list in Table 1 (page 15, lines 26-27). The scan list is a list of most likely selected channels determined by the receiver based upon user habits and channels surrounding the currently selected channel. This is not a list of all available channels. Therefore, the scan list in Table 1 is not "updating a channel list of all channels available for the currently selected video input" as recited in the present claimed invention. Furthermore, Reitmeier is only concerned with keeping a small list of channels and would be unable to efficiently store and update all channels due to controller and memory constraints.

In Reitmeier, when the user changes the channel to a channel within the scan list of Table 1, the stored I-frame for the selected channel is displayed as the channel is reacquired by tuning, demodulating and multiplexing. By storing this data, the latency period occurring when tuning, demodulating and multiplexing a new channel is masked. In the present claimed invention, channel search delay is reduced because only the currently selected video input is identified and searched, as opposed to searching all channels on all inputs. Therefore, the problems solved by Reitmeier are unrelated to the problems solved by the present claimed invention. Reitmeier is concerned with masking the latency time when changing channels, not with reducing the actual time required for performing a channel search and updating of a channel list when receiving input from more than one video source input as in the present claimed invention.

Additionally, Reitmeier's apparatus refers only to one source with dual tuners receiving and displaying a plurality of channels. Reitmeier does not disclose a "video processing apparatus having at least two video inputs, each video input able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices" receiving and displaying a "plurality of channels of television signals" from a particular signal input as recited in claim 9. As Reitmeier has only one source, it is unable to select from a plurality of inputs and there is no reason to determine all channels available for the selected source as this list will not change, even when switching tuners. The present claimed invention contains at least two distinct inputs able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices. Therefore, Reitmeier neither discloses nor suggests "means for

Serial No. 10/031,091

Attorney Docket No. 89650

receiving a first [or second] plurality of channels of television signals from a first [or second] television signal input" as recited in the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure anticipated by Reitmeier in claims 1, 5 and 9. Accordingly, as claims 2, 6 and 10 are dependent on independent claims 1, 5 and 9 respectively, Applicant respectfully submit that these claims are also not anticipated by Reitmeier. Therefore, Applicant further respectfully submits that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3-4, 7-8, and 11-12 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 3-4, 7-8, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmeier in view of Wugofski (International Patent Application No. WO 99/35833). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Reitmeier describes a method and apparatus for masking program selection latency in an information stream receiver as described in previous arguments.

Wugofski describes a convergence system displaying channel banners that assume the same form regardless of the source on a display. The system includes a television component for receiving a plurality of inputs from a plurality of sources. Each banner includes a plurality of fields. The information contained within fields of the channel banner change with time. A plurality of source devices is available from which the system described by Wugofski can download program data to be displayed on the channel banners. However, Wugofski (with Reitmeier) neither discloses nor suggests "detecting available channels from various possible channels on only the currently selected video input" as recited in the present claimed invention. Additionally, Wugofski (with Reitmeier) neither discloses nor suggests "updating a channel list of all channels available for the currently selected input" as recited in the

Serial No. 10/031,091

Attorney Docket No. 89650

present claimed invention. Rather, Wugofski is only concerned with placing information banners having the same form on a display regardless of the input source.

Furthermore, the problems solved in Wugofski's system are unrelated to the problems solved by the present claimed invention. The present invention is directed at reducing the time for a channel search in a multimedia system with two or more inputs, each input able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices. Wugofski is concerned with extracting channel banner information and uniformly displaying it regardless of the input source on a display in a convergence system. Wugofski is not concerned with performing an optimized channel search, as in the present claimed invention.

Additionally, there is no reason or motivation to combine Reitmeier and Wugofski as suggested by the Office Action. Reitmeier is concerned with masking the latency experienced while retrieving channels in a television receiver. Wugofski describes a system for uniformly displaying channel banner information, regardless of the input. Reitmeier's apparatus consists of one RF input source coupled to two tuners in order to retrieve channels for user viewing, such as in a picture-in-picture (PIP) application as described on page 7, line 28 to page 8, line 11. To perform a channel scan or search, Reitmeier does not retrieve channel banner information, as described by Wugofski. Moreover, Wugofski's system is not concerned with scanning channels but with obtaining event information and displaying the necessary fields after selecting a source via a remote control device, as shown in Fig. 2A and Fig. 7. Thus, Wugofski and Reitmeier are concerned with completely unrelated problems and provide unrelated solutions to these problems. Therefore, there is no reason or motivation to combine these references. Furthermore, neither Reitmeier nor Wugofski address the objective of the present claimed invention which is to reduce the time for a channel search in a system with two or more inputs.

However, even if the systems of Reitmeier and Wugofski were combined, the combined system would not produce an operable device. Reitmeier has only one RF source coupled to two tuners, yet Wugofski displays uniform channel banners from a

Serial No. 10/031,091

Attorney Docket No. 89650

variety of sources, such as RF RECEIVER, SATELLITE RECEIVER, DIGITAL RECEIVER, or CONSUMER ELECTRONIC DEVICE/S as seen in Fig. 1A. In fact, Reitmeier contradicts Wugofski as utilizing one RF source as in Reitmeier is different than utilizing a variety of sources as in Wugofski. Even if Reitmeier implements a remote control device as suggested by Wugofski, the switching of video input sources cannot occur as there is only one RF video input coupled to two tuners and one input does not switch between cable or antenna signals as two or more video inputs can. The combination would not function because there is only one source. Additionally, the combined system of Reitmeier and Wugofski neither discloses nor suggests "determining by an user a currently selected video input from at least two video inputs" and "detecting available channels from various possible channels on only the currently selected video input" as recited in claim 1 of the present claimed invention. Claims 5 and 9 are similar in scope to claim 1 and therefore, the above comments regarding claim 1 are also applicable to claims 5 and 9. As claims 3-4, 7-8 and 11-12 are dependent on independent claims 1, 5 and 9 respectively, the above remarks concerning the independent claims are applicable to these claims as well.

Additionally, claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12 describe a video processing apparatus consisting of at least two video inputs, each video input able to receive a video signal from any of a plurality of input devices, and "skip one of a cable and an air detection routine". As described in the above arguments, Wugofski implements a remote control to switch between inputs. Reitmeier, even when using a remote control, is not able to switch between inputs and determine whether a video input is coupled to a cable or antenna video signal as there is only one RF input that is unable to switch between cable and air. Therefore, implementing a remote control device as in Reitmeier in view of Wugofski neither discloses nor suggests "utilizing information ... regarding whether a video input is coupled to a cable video signal source or an antenna video signal source in order to skip a cable/air detection routine" as recited in the present claimed invention. With respect to the above listed claims, it is respectfully submitted that they are patentable over Reitmeier in view of Wugofski.

Serial No. 10/031,091

Attorney Docket No. 89650

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Reitmeier in view of Wugofski provide no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure that makes claims 1, 5 and 9 unpatentable. Accordingly, as claims 3-4 are dependent on claim 1, claims 7-8 are dependent on claim 5 and claims 11-12 are dependent on claim 9, Applicant respectfully submit that these claims are also patentable over Reitmeier in view of Wugofski. Therefore, Applicant further respectfully submits that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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